

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled)
2. (canceled)
3. (canceled)
4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) ~~The absorbent article of claim 1~~ An absorbent article, comprising:
an absorbent chassis defining a longitudinal axis, a transverse axis, front and back waist edges
parallel to the transverse axis, opposite side edges extending between the front and back waist
edges, a front waist region contiguous with the front waist edge, a back waist region contiguous
with the back waist edge, and a crotch region which extends between and interconnects the front
and back waist regions, the front waist region defining a pair of transversely opposed front side
panels and a front center panel positioned between and interconnecting the front side panels, the
back waist region defining a pair of transversely opposed back side panels and a back center panel
positioned between and interconnecting the back side panels, at least one pair of side panels being
elastomeric in a direction generally parallel to the transverse axis, the absorbent chassis comprising
a bodyside liner, an outer cover bonded to the bodyside liner, and an absorbent assembly disposed
between the bodyside liner and the outer cover; and

a fastening system for releasably securing the absorbent article in a pant-like configuration, the
fastening system comprising first and second fastening components disposed on the back side
panels and adapted to releasably engage first and second mating fastening components disposed
on the front side panels;

wherein a transverse distance between the first and second fastening components is
substantially equal to a transverse distance between the first and second mating fastening
components,

the absorbent article further comprising leg elastic members longitudinally aligned along each
side edge in the crotch region, the leg elastic members having front terminal points located adjacent
longitudinally innermost parts of the front side panels and back terminal points located adjacent
longitudinally innermost parts of the back side panels.

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) ~~The absorbent article of claim 1,~~ An absorbent article, comprising:
an absorbent chassis defining a longitudinal axis, a transverse axis, front and back waist edges
parallel to the transverse axis, opposite side edges extending between the front and back waist
edges, a front waist region contiguous with the front waist edge, a back waist region contiguous
with the back waist edge, and a crotch region which extends between and interconnects the front
and back waist regions, the front waist region defining a pair of transversely opposed front side
panels and a front center panel positioned between and interconnecting the front side panels, the
back waist region defining a pair of transversely opposed back side panels and a back center panel
positioned between and interconnecting the back side panels, at least one pair of side panels being
elastomeric in a direction generally parallel to the transverse axis, the absorbent chassis comprising
a bodyside liner, an outer cover bonded to the bodyside liner, and an absorbent assembly disposed
between the bodyside liner and the outer cover; and

a fastening system for releasably securing the absorbent article in a pant-like configuration, the
fastening system comprising first and second fastening components disposed on the back side
panels and adapted to releasably engage first and second mating fastening components disposed
on the front side panels,

wherein a transverse distance between the first and second fastening components is
substantially equal to a transverse distance between the first and second mating fastening
components,

wherein the first and second fastening components are disposed in the back waist region
abutting the back waist edge and the first and second mating fastening components are disposed in
the front waist region abutting the front waist edge.

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) An absorbent article, comprising:

an absorbent chassis defining a longitudinal axis, a transverse axis, front and back waist edges parallel to the transverse axis, opposite side edges extending between the front and back waist edges, a front waist region contiguous with the front waist edge, a back waist region contiguous with the back waist edge, and a crotch region which extends between and interconnects the front and back waist regions, the absorbent chassis comprising:

a rectangular composite structure having opposite linear side edges parallel to the longitudinal axis and opposite linear end edges parallel to the transverse axis, the composite structure comprising a bodyside liner, an outer cover bonded to the bodyside liner, and an absorbent assembly disposed between the bodyside liner and the outer cover;

first and second front side panels bonded to the composite structure in the front waist region, each front side panel defining a leg end edge disposed toward a longitudinal center of the absorbent article, the leg end edges extending from respective opposite linear side edges of the rectangular composite structure;

first and second back side panels bonded to the composite structure in the back waist region, each back side panel defining a leg end edge disposed toward a longitudinal center of the absorbent article, the leg end edges extending from respective opposite linear side edges of the rectangular composite structure;

wherein the front side panels are longitudinally spaced from the back side panels;

a fastening system for releasably securing the absorbent article in a pant-like configuration, the fastening system comprising first and second fastening components connected to the respective first and second back side panels and adapted to releasably engage first and second mating fastening components connected to the respective first and second front side panels; and

elastomeric components transversely disposed between the fastening components and the absorbent assembly;

wherein [the] a transverse distance between the first and second fastening components is substantially equal to [the] a transverse distance between the first and second mating fastening components.

15. (original) The absorbent article of claim 14, wherein the first and second fastening components are disposed in the back waist region abutting the back waist edge and the first and second mating fastening components are disposed in the front waist region abutting the front waist edge.

16. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 14, wherein each side panel has a waist end edge parallel to the transverse axis and forming part of one of the waist edges and an opposite leg end edge substantially parallel to the waist end edge, and each side panel is elastomeric from the waist end edge to the leg end edge.

17. (canceled)

18. (original) The absorbent article of claim 14, wherein the absorbent article has an overall length dimension and the side panels have an average length dimension that is about 20 percent or greater of the overall length dimension.

19. (original) The absorbent article of claim 14, wherein the absorbent chassis defines an inner surface and an opposite outer surface, and the first and second fastening components comprise loop type fasteners disposed on the inner surface and the first and second mating fastening components comprise hook type fasteners disposed on the outer surface, the loop type fasteners being sized larger than the mating hook type fasteners.

20. (canceled)

21. (canceled)

22. (canceled)

23. (canceled)

24. (canceled)

25. (currently amended) A disposable absorbent article, comprising an absorbent chassis and a fastening system for releasably attaching a front waist region of the absorbent chassis to a back waist region of the absorbent chassis to define a refastenable pant having a waist opening and a pair of leg openings, the refastenable pant comprising:

a pair of elastomeric, nonwoven front side panels extending from the waist opening to each leg opening;

a pair of elastomeric, nonwoven back side panels extending from the waist opening to each leg opening;

a pair of refastenable seams extending from the waist opening to each leg opening, each refastenable seam disposed between an elastomeric front side panel and an elastomeric back side panel; and

a pair of elastomeric leg members which partially encircle each leg opening, wherein each elastomeric leg member extends from adjacent an elastomeric front side panel in the front waist region to adjacent an elastomeric back side panel in the back waist region.

26. (original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 25, wherein the refastenable pant further comprises:

an elastomeric front waistband disposed in the front waist region and positioned between the pair of elastomeric front side panels; and

an elastomeric back waistband disposed in the back waist region and positioned between the pair of elastomeric back side panels.

27. (canceled)

28. (original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 25, wherein the absorbent article has an overall length dimension, the front side panels are longitudinally spaced from the back side panels, and the front and back side panels have an average length dimension that is about 20 percent or greater of the overall length dimension.

29. (canceled)